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## GREAT SEAL OF ILLINOIS.\*

FIRST COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE STATE SYMBOL.

By BRAND WHITLOCK.

The constitutional evolution of our republic has left the states no symbol of their boasted sovereignty but their seals. Some have coats of arms, and some flags, but they receive no official recognition save from dilettanti patriots who drag the past for rebellious ancestors. The nation's flag is borne by Illinois' eight regiments, and her coat of arms, if she may be said to possess a bearing, is but the familiar escutcheon of the United States with an altered chief. But her great seal has a history. The fathers, in designing it, took the image of the federal Caesar and erased its superscription. Then they proudly wrote in its stead "State Sovereignty, National Union." In the course of time that motto was turned around. The reversal was in open defiance of law, so that the design of the seal now resting with the Secretary of State is not an authorized one. But the tricky alteration was made at a time when public opinion, if it reflected upon the significance of the change at all, no doubt approved it. History itself had reversed the motto and written it in blood and fire. It had placed national union first; state sovereignty, if at all, afterward.

That is the story of the Great Seal of State, which, like the proof of its own authenticity, it bears upon its face. Of course, states' rights is a dead doctrine. The seal is sufficient for all purposes of the executive chambers, just as the great seal of the United Kingdom of England and Scotland is used to this day as the great seal of the Kingdom of Great Britain, even to summon parliament, Irish members included. If it has lost its original chaste appearance and heraldic significance, it is in harmony with other artistic expressions of the State, which has ever

\* NOTE.—The above article was in substance written by Mr. Whitlock in 1896, and was published in the Chicago Times-Herald in that year. The editor knowing that Mr. Whitlock, when an employee in the office of the Secretary of State of Illinois, had made researches in the archives of the State in quest of the history of the great seal of the State, wrote to him and asked him to contribute an article upon that subject to the pages of the Journal. Mr. Whitlock kindly sent the above article which has been revised and to which some corrections and additions have been made since it was published in the columns of the Times-Herald, some seventeen years ago. The editor has also consulted the article upon the seal of Illinois by Mr. John L. Pickering, in the Illinois Blue Book, published by Secretary of State, James A. Rose in 1907.—EDITOR.

been a liberal if not prodigal patron of bad art. The walls of the State house are daubed with preposterous scenes that make the judicious grieve. Its rotunda and dome are crowded with crude statues that looked better in the original mud. The vaunted ceiling of the old Supreme Court room now used for the automobile department of the Secretary of State's office has a wild-eyed goddess painted on it. The State house itself, built to overtop the capitol at Washington, is an architectural hash, or, as the late John Root said of a certain Chicago building, "part Roman, part Graeco-Roman, and the rest catch-as-catch-can."

It is necessary to go back. The region which is now Illinois was once, after the noble white man had traded the noble red man a corncob pipe and the liquor habit for it, a part of Virginia. Then the writs that ran over it, which were no doubt few, bore the seal of that state. Afterward it became a part of the territory of the United States northwest of the Ohio River. The seal of this territory, produced under section 5 of the act of May 8, 1792, which provided "that the Secretary of State provide proper seals for the several and respective public offices in the said territory," bore as a device a bit of western scenery within two concentric circles containing the words "The Seal of the Territory of the U. S. N. W. of the River Ohio." The landscape consisted of a river bearing two canoes, the far bank showing wooded hills, the near a grassy slope with a large lone tree. At the base of the tree was a log, at the right three small trees, with a sunburst over all. In the exergue was the motto, "Meliozem Lapsa Locavit." In some accounts of the seal a coiled snake in the foreground is mentioned, but does not appear in all reproductions. Six impressions are to be found in the department of state at Washington, most of them very faint and indistinct. The clearest one is that affixed to the Journal of the Northwest Territory for July, 1790. The earliest known use of the seal is on Governor Arthur St. Clair's proclamation of July 26, 1788. The official description of the seal, the order for making the die and the die itself cannot now be found.

The late William H. English, of Indiana, in his "Conquest of the Northwest," speaks of the design as follows: "The coiled snake in the foreground and the boats in the middle distance, the rising sun, the forest tree felled by the ax and cut into logs, succeeded by apparently an apple tree laden with fruit; the Latin inscription, 'Meliozem Lapsa Locavit (he has planted better than the fallen),' all combine to forcibly express the idea that a wild and savage condition is to be superseded by a higher and better civilization. The wilderness and its dangerous denizens of reptiles, Indians and wild beasts, are to disappear before the

ax and rifle of the western pioneer, with his fruits, his harvests, his boats, his commerce and his restless and aggressive civilization."

So much for the seal of the Northwest Territory. In 1800 Indiana Territory, which included Illinois, was organized. The seal of Indiana Territory was designed similarly to that of the Northwest Territory, and in 1809, when the Territory of Illinois was formed, it became necessary for it to go elsewhere for the design of its seal. The governor and judges of the territory procured one. The seal produced was a facsimile of the earliest cut of the seal of the United States. In all essential details except the omission of the motto from the territorial seal they were identical. The description of the device of the federal seal otherwise suits that of the territorial seal precisely. The seal was not provided certainly, for some time after the organization of the territory, for I find commissions, the jurats of which run: "In testimony whereof, I have hereunto affixed by private seal, there being no seal of office."

The seal first appears in the archives at Springfield on the commission of Francis Wheatly, a lieutenant in the militia, issued Feb. 4, 1810. In the printed form recording this commission the following words appear: "My private seal, there being no seal of State." A pen is run through these words and there is written in a clear, bold hand: "Caused the seal of the Territory to be affixed thereto." When this seal was adopted, under what authority, by whom designed or cut cannot be told. The records in the wilderness were intermittently kept. The details of the early history of the region are scarfed in mists. I am told that the furniture of public offices in those simple days consisted chiefly of a quill pen and a demijohn of liquor more potent than ink. The Anglo-Saxon was hewing his way westward, and in the pauses of his labor he bestowed himself on other things than records. He had forgotten the past, cared little for the present, nothing for the future.

After the lapse of a century there is little trace of this territorial seal. There is a faint impression of it in brown and hardened wax on a time yellowed proclamation by Governor Ninian Edwards, dated Sept. 14, 1812, ordering that elections be held in the several counties of the territory, for the purpose of electing a delegate to congress, member of council and representatives in the assembly. It is borne, too, by several dingy commissions. One of these, worn and frayed by time, is that issued to Andrew Bankston, a lieutenant in the Second regiment of militia. From this impression I have sketched the reproduction given on page 438.

The State of Illinois has had in reality two seals, each of which has once been recut. They may be distinguished as ante-bellum and post-

bellum. Illinois was admitted to the Union in 1818. The Act of Congress enabling the people of the territory of Illinois to form a Constitution and a State Government was approved April 18, 1818. The ordinance of Illinois accepting the enabling act was passed and the first



SEAL OF ILLINOIS TERRITORY.

Constitution adopted by the constitutional convention of the State at Kaskaskia, on August 26 of the same year. The resolution of Congress declaring admission of Illinois into the Union was approved December 3, 1818.

Meanwhile on October 5 the first General Assembly was begun and held at Kaskaskia. The necessity for a public seal was immediately apparent. Doubts, however, were early entertained as to the power of the Legislature to "enact any laws prior to the Constitution having been ratified by Congress," and so, notwithstanding the recommendation of a joint committee appointed to confer with the Governor on the subject of "an adjournment of the General Assembly until a time sufficient for information to be received of the ratification of the Constitution by the Congress," that a "law giving authority to the Secretary of State to use the territorial seal until a State Seal is provided, and to authorize the said secretary to procure a State seal," would be necessary, no action was taken until the ratification by Congress for which they adjourned and waited. Then at the second session of the First General Assembly, by the Act of February 19, 1819, it was enacted:

"That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to procure a permanent State seal of such device as may be agreed upon by the Governor and Justices of the Supreme Court."

Shadrach Bond, whose portrait, with his long black hair falling over the high collar of his old-fashioned uniform, his huge chapeau-bras with

its scarlet plume, his white belt and gold-hilted sword, hangs now on the walls of the Governor's anteroom, was then Governor—the first Governor, Joseph Phillips, Thomas C. Browne, William P. Foster, John Reynolds and William Wilson were the justices of the Supreme Court. The Governor and his venerable associates carried the Act into effect and procured a seal. Of their work neither record nor report can be found. The archives of the State contain no reference to the subject other than the bare law. Doubtless they considered the seal a sufficient monument to their labor. It is plain that the territorial seal, adopted from the Federal seal, formed the basis of the device. By whom it was designed or cut it is impossible to say. The significance of the blazonry cannot be determined with certainty. It may, however, be approximated. Comparison of both these seals with the seal of the United States leads irresistibly to the conclusion that the Illinois seals were imitations of the Federal design. Upon this hypothesis the device for the armorial achievements of the great seal for the United States becomes interesting. It is officially described (Journals of Congress, Vol. 4, p. 39) as follows:

“**ARMS**, Paleways of thirteen pieces, argent and gules; a chief, azure; The escutcheon on the breast of the American Eagle displayed, proper, holding in his dexter talon an olive branch and in his sinister a bundle of thirteen arrows, all proper, and in his beak a scroll, inscribed with this motto, *E PLURIBUS UNUM*.”

“**FOR THE CREST**: Over the head of the Eagle, which appears above the escutcheon, a glory, or, breaking through a cloud, proper, and surrounding thirteen stars, forming a constellation, argent, on an azure field.”

“**REVERSE**: A pyramid unfinished. In the zenith, an eye in a triangle, surrounded with a glory proper. Over the eye these words, ‘*Annuit cœptis*.’ On the base of the pyramid the numerical letters *MDCCLXXVI*. And underneath the following motto: ‘*Novus Ordo Seclorum*.’”

The reverse of the seal of the United States has never been cut, as it cannot conveniently be used. The reverse of the seal of Illinois, so far as known, has never been designed. The armorial achievement is, therefore, the only portion of the above description that requires notice. The similarity between the Federal and State seals is patent. It is to be observed in the paleways (perpendicular stripes on the escutcheon or shield), argent and gules, that is silver or white and red; in the chief of azure or blue, and in the American Eagle, displayed proper, which in the talk of the college of heralds means naturally. The blazonries differ chiefly in the mottoes and in the number of arrows. There are, of

course, minor differences, such as the variation in the shapes of the escutcheon and the eagle. The State seal preserves the Federal crest, the constellation, although with more stars, and has an inscribed margin, which the supreme dignity of the Federal seal rendered unnecessary. The olive branch and arrows, it will also be observed, are not in the same talons respectively.

It may be assumed that if the State adopted the device of the seal of the United States for its own blazonry, it also adopted its significance.

Accompanying the report from which I have taken the above description of the armorial achievement of the Union were the following "remarks and explanations:"

"The Escutcheon is composed of the chief and pale, the two most honorable ordinaries. The pieces, paly, represent the several states all joined in one compact entire, supporting a Chief, which unites the whole and represents Congress. The Motto alludes to the Union. The pales in the arms are kept closely united by the chief and the chief depends on that Union and the strength resulting from it for its support, to denote the Confederacy of the United States of America, and the preservation of their union through Congress. The colors of the pales are those used in the flag of the United States of America; White signifies purity and innocence; Red, hardiness and valor, and Blue, the color of the chief, signifies vigilance, perseverance and Justice. The olive branch and arrows denote the power of war and peace which is exclusively vested in Congress. The Constellation denotes a new state taking its place and rank among other foreign powers. The Escutcheon is borne on the breast of the American Eagle without any other supporters,, to denote that the United States ought to rely on their own virtue.

"REVERSE: The pyramid signifies Strength and Duration. The Eye over it and the motto allude to the many signal interpositions of Providence in favor of the American cause. The date underneath is that of the Declaration of Independence and the words under it signify the beginning of the new American Era, which commences from that date. Passed June 20, 1782."

The remarks of William Barton, A. M., who designed the armorial achievement for the United States and whose device is almost identical with the one finally agreed upon and now in use, are here appropriate:

"The Escutcheon being placed on the breast of the Eagle displayed is a very ancient mode of bearing, and is truly imperial. The Eagle displayed is an Heraldical figure; and, being borne in the manner here described, supplies the place of supporters and Crest. The American

states need no supporters but their own virtue and the Preservation of the Union through Congress. The Pales in the Arms are kept closely united by the chief, which last likewise depends on the Union and the strength resulting from it, for its own support—The Inference is plain. June 19, 1782. W. B.”

The explanation, so far as it relates to the obverse of the Federal seal, will do very well for the State seal. The olive branch and arrows may seem at first incongruous, but acquire an intense significance when the motto of the State is considered: “State Sovereignty—National Union.” E pluribus unum, yes, but State sovereignty first.

It will, therefore, be seen that the great seal of Illinois, as originally adopted, was the immediate result of designs made by an historical scholar, was blazoned agreeably to the laws of heraldry, and was as full of meaning as the black, red and white colors of the German empire, which indicate, as old Emperor William said, that the empire has passed out of darkness, through blood into the light.

The first reasonably clear design of the Great Seal of the State of Illinois in the archives of the Secretary of State is affixed to a proclamation of Governor Shadrach Bond, the first Governor of the State of Illinois bearing date of September 4, 1820, dividing the State into three electoral districts for the purpose of giving the people of Illinois, for the first time a chance to vote for presidential electors.



FIRST SEAL OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Another impression of the seal of Illinois in the records at Springfield is upon a dingy old proclamation of Governor Edward Coles, bearing date September 8, 1824, calling an extraordinary session of the General



Assembly. This seal was used until about 1839, when it was recut. The new seal is found for the first time on a proclamation of Governor Thomas Carlin, dated October 14, 1839, convening the Legislature in extraordinary session. While in this seal the design was preserved in the main, in the new seal there were minor differences. For instance, in the new seal the constellation was omitted, and the Eagle was displayed looking to his left instead of his right. Three stars, too, were inserted in the chief. The meaning of these stars is not known, and conjecture is idle. The number of arrows was also reduced to three. This does not possess any significance necessarily, for when the Federal seal was recut in 1841 the arrows were reduced to six, and not restored to the original and correct number of thirteen until the seal was again recut in 1885. This was perhaps in both instances an oversight. The same thing occurred with respect to the paleways in the escutcheon, the number being variable in the several seals of the State, though always in the Federal seal thirteen.

It may be objected that the disposition of the scroll in the Eagle's beak was altered, and while it was drawn anew, it is true, it was drawn with more graceful curves, and was but in line with the general artistic improvement in the design. The Eagle, for instance, if less heraldic, is more natural in the second design than in the first, looks more like the imperial bird of all the world's Caesars, and less like a Maumee frog. A similar improvement was made in the Federal seal. The alteration of the scroll was not material, for in the first seal the motto distinctly read: "State Sovereignty—National Union."

Otherwise the original design was faithfully observed. The new seal, to every intent, was a reproduction of the old. No Act of the General Assembly was passed for this renewal, and none was necessary. The Secretary of State merely utilized the power vested in the official custodian of a seal to renew it, when necessary, without the sanction or direction of legislative authority, provided the renewed seal shall be an accurate reproduction of the old. This power has been twice exercised by the secretary of state of the United States—once by Daniel Webster in 1841, and again by Frederick T. Frelinghuysen in 1885. It was exercised by A. P. Field, Secretary of State of Illinois in 1839, and by Henry D. Dement when occupying the same office.

The renewal of the seal in 1868, however, was contrary to law, because Sharon Tyndale, the Secretary of State, although acting under the cover of legislative authority, willfully subverted the legal and genuine design of the seal and substituted one of his own device. A statute would have been necessary for the purpose he sought to subserve, which

was to alter the design of the seal of State, while none was required for the object he cunningly pretended to have in view. Protesting his virtue o'ermuch, he invited suspicion. As a result, the statute he secured expressly forbade him to fulfil the intentions he had revealed. Then he flew in its face, with flagrant disobedience. Leaden-heeled justice never caught up with him. He died. But here is the story:



SECOND SEAL OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

The Twenty-fifth General Assembly convened January 7, 1867. The republicans outnumbered the democrats by more than half their numbers. They had a majority of 7 in the Senate, of 33 in the House, of 40 on joint ballot. The intoxicating cup of power was full and flowing. The General Assembly subscribed for newspapers for all its officers and members, furnished them with postage, mileage, gold pens and pearl-handled knives, stationery by the clothes-basketful, committee-rooms at the hotels where the chairmen of those committees lived and entertained. The old Constitution of 1848 was in existence. It was the day of unanimous consent. The sessions were spirited. They made laws gaily, liberally, by the wholesale. It was the custom to stack bills up on the Clerk's desk until they toppled, and then with a whoop to pass them all at once, before they fell. Over 1,200 laws, public and private, were enacted. Bills were introduced, passed in a single day, almost at a single bound, I was about to say, and became laws in a time shorter than is today required even by expert lobbyists to get a measure past second reading.

At such a time it was suddenly discovered that it was imperative to renew the Great Seal of State. The discovery was made by Sharon Tyndale, then, as Secretary of State, the official custodian of the seal. The last official imprint of the old seal, made in the executive records,

October 26, 1868, is as clean and sharp as the face of a new minted coin. The demand for renewal could not have arisen from physical necessities, and even if it had a legislative enactment was not required to authorize the Secretary of State to have it recut. He already possessed that simple ministerial power, and afterward exercised it for the same purpose, had before, and should have again. Tyndale's purposes were ulterior. A republican and a partisan, he sought, no doubt, to do something himself to signalize the triumph of his own ideas and his own party. The conditions were all favorable, the time was auspicious.

"Annuit cęptis." A strong national spirit was prevailing. The question of State sovereignty had been forever settled, and settled in the best way. The great series of ages, as one of the mottoes on the reverse of the seal of the United States has it, was indeed beginning anew. How could the sentiment be better expressed or accentuated than by transposing the motto on the seal of Illinois? Let it cease to be "State Sovereignty—National Union" and become "National Union—State Sovereignty." Such were the motives which actuated Sharon Tyndale in this business, and, while they were pure and patriotic,—in their execution he resorted to the methods of the ward politician. He had a bill prepared authorizing himself to renew the seal and gave it to Allen C. Fuller, a senator from the twenty-first district, to introduce. The Legislature was very busy. Amid its rush and turmoil men had little time to devote to such trifles as seals. They were building new State houses then, and beginning to regulate the railroad traffic. And so when unanimous consent was desired to order a new seal of State it was freely given. If it had been a zoölogical garden it would have been the same. The Tyndale bill was the first bill presented. On the very next day after the Assembly convened it was introduced in the Senate by Senator Fuller as "Senate Bill No. 1."

The Springfield newspapers then published phonographic reports of the legislative proceedings and were paid for it at column rates by the Legislature. Read the record in the Illinois State Journal of that day. It is fuller than the Senate Journal, although either will show the spirited manner in which the bill went through. It relates that in asking unanimous consent to introduce the bill, Senator Fuller said:

"Mr. President, I desire to ask the unanimous consent of the Senate for the introduction and passage of a bill handed to me by the Secretary of State, in relation to the Great Seal of State. I am informed that it is badly out of order, and that it is necessary that it be renewed."

The Secretary read the bill (the State Journal continues) as follows:

"A bill for an Act to renew the Great Seal of State.

“SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly,* That the Secretary of State is hereby authorized and required to renew the ‘Great Seal of State,’ and to procure it, as nearly as practicable, of the size, form and intent of the seal now in use, and conforming with the original design as follows: ‘American Eagle on a bowlder in prairie, the sun rising in distant horizon.’”

Section 2 of the Act provided for the payment of the expense incurred and section 3 was an emergency clause.

The State Journal continues:

“Mr. Fuller—I move that the bill be now read a second time by title.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill read by title.

Mr. Fuller—I move that the rules be suspended and the bill put upon its final passage.

The rules being suspended, the bill was adopted upon its final reading by the following vote: Yeas, 24; nays, 0.”

With much poetic ease the bill slid through the Senate. It excited no suspicion, and everyone voted for it. Probably not one of the members heard it read. If they did they thought of it only as a bill authorizing the Secretary of State to perform a perfunctory duty, a mere matter of household repairs. Such a busy body was not likely to notice that the words “as nearly as practicable” were redundant, or to discern the loophole they afforded for escape from compliance with the provisions of the Act when it became a law. They did not notice the sly omission of all reference to the motto from what was so cunningly labeled the original design of the seal. They did not pause to reflect that a law was unnecessary for the purpose advanced as its own reason for existence. They did not know that that was the first authentic description ever given of the seal of Illinois. They were not aware that the design was “original” only in the mind of the author of the bill. What an Eagle on a bowlder and a bowlder on a prairie meant in heraldry or anywhere else was and is past finding out, just as is the sun rising in the “distant” horizon. The idea for the design perhaps, it is charitable to observe, came from the official stationery of the State, which was decorated by an elaboration of the seal. In this design the Eagle was displayed, improperly, of course, upon a basis resembling a roc’s egg more than a rock, in the rear of which were introduced first the prairie, then the pond, then the “distant” horizon, and then the rising sun. This design was supported dexter by a farmer plowing on Chicago and Alton right of way, sinister by a lake propeller. This method of decorating stationery was preserved for many years but is not in common use at the present time. The new seal is not only painted on the ceilings of the

State house and carved on the door-knobs, which so many politicians yearn to fondle, but lithographed on the paper used in official correspondence. In it the farmer has a more modern engine to frighten his horses, and the propeller is of more graceful model, but otherwise the design remains unaltered.

And so democrats and republicans alike voted for the bill in the Senate. The next day, January 9, it was reported to the House, where, on January 10, it was taken up for consideration, read a first time and ordered to a second reading. Then, on motion of E. B. Payne, a republican from Lake County, the rules were suspended and the bill read a second time. It had almost finished its course, and, without the breath of opposition, two days after its introduction, was within sight of the Governor's desk. But here an obstacle was flung in its way by Mr. Dinsmore, a republican from Whiteside County, and either an admirer of the old seal or a conservative who, on principle, resisted change. He submitted the following amendment:

"At the end of the first section add the words, 'the same to be an exact facsimile of the present seal.'"

The amendment was voted down—31 yeas to 46 nays. An examination of the roll call shows that it was not a strict party vote, for, although all the democrats who were present voted for the amendment, they were augmented by nine republicans. Attempts to have the rules further suspended and the bill read a third time failed. The effort to amend, however, evidently attracted suspicion to the bill, for on the very same day it was recalled to the Senate. The bill was sent back to the House, in which it originated, and for three weeks is not mentioned in the record. It is probable that during this silent interim the two parties reconciled their differences.

Senators John B. Cohrs, who represented the old eleventh district, and Andrew J. Hunter from the eighth district, both democrats and leaders in the Senate, when they discovered the intention of those who were behind the bill, had bitterly opposed it, and may have instigated the efforts to amend it in the House. During these three weeks they no doubt worked with such will upon their republican friends, using I know not what potent arguments and influences, that they completely surrendered, and consented that the seal remain, if renewed, unaltered, for in the Senate Journal for February 8 we read that:

"By universal consent"—the clerk employed the unusual word "universal" in place of the parliamentary and customary "unanimous," more broadly to signify, no doubt, the beautiful amity that prevailed in all breasts—"by universal consent, on motion of Mr. Woodson, the vote

whereby Senate Bill No. 1, for 'An Act to renew the Great Seal of the State,' was passed by the Senate, was reconsidered, whereupon, by unanimous consent, the following amendment was inserted, to wit: Amend section 1 by adding 'And scroll in Eagle's beak, on which shall be inscribed the words, "State Sovereignty, National Union," to correspond with the original seal of State in every particular.'

"And the question being," the record continues, "Shall the amendment be adopted? it was decided in the affirmative as follows: Yeas, 24; nays, 0."

It was all perfectly unanimous and amiable, and the bill as amended was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading. Senators Cohrs and Hunter and their seven associates were serene in the belief that they had saved the seal if not the State, and scored a shining victory for the lately discredited doctrine of states' rights.

The bill encountered no further opposition, and, thereafter unchanged passing both Houses by unanimous votes, on March 7, it received the signature of Governor Oglesby and became a law.

What did it provide? The first section of the law was:

*"Be it enacted, etc.,* That the Secretary of State is hereby authorized and required to renew the Great Seal of State and to procure it, as nearly as practicable, of the size, form and intent of the seal now in use, and conforming with the original design, as follows: 'American Eagle on a bowlder in prairie, the sun rising in distant horizon' and scroll in Eagle's beak, on which shall be inscribed the words, 'State Sovereignty—National Union,' to correspond with the original seal of State in every particular."

Secretary of State Tyndale, I am told by men who were employed in the State house at that time, was highly incensed at the failure of his bill to pass as he had originally written it. He roundly berated the members of his party who had failed to seize the advantage their tremendous majority in the Legislature gave them, and then, philosophically accepted the situation, stubbornly set about accomplishing his purpose in some other way. It was a year before the new seal was produced. Doubtless by that time everyone had forgotten that the State was to have a new seal. On the executive records in the department of State at Springfield for October 26, 1868, this bumptious entry appears:

OCTOBER 26, 1868.

"The new ('renewed') Great Seal of State has been adopted and first put into use by the Secretary of State this day, just fifty years and two months from the date of the admission of Illinois into the Union,

which date is engraved upon the new seal as it was upon the old seal of State.

This is done by authority and in compliance with 'An Act to renew the Great Seal of State,' approved March 7, 1867. And the old seal of State was this day discarded and laid aside by the Secretary of State under the same authority.

Every instrument or paper sealed up to the 24th day of October, 1868, and including that day, Saturday, was sealed with the old seal, an impression of which is hereto affixed opposite, and marked in accordance with the facts. And

Every instrument or paper sealed on Monday the 26th day of October, 1868 (the date of this record), was sealed with the new seal of State, an impression of which is also hereto affixed, opposite, and which shall remain and continue in use as the Great Seal of the State of Illinois until otherwise ordered by the General Assembly.

SHARON TYNDALE,

*Secretary of State.*"

An impression of each seal on a wafer is glued to the page. From them the reproductions given in this article were drawn. Where is the similarity between them? In the new seal the Eagle is not displayed, but, if heraldic terms are to be adhered to, rising. The



PRESENT SEAL OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

escutcheon is no longer borne by the Eagle on its breast, but now reposes on the ground. The chief has increased its quota of stars. The arrows have disappeared altogether, and the olive branch, which resembles more a stalk of tobacco than that classic symbol, is crushed

by the escutcheon. If the significance is to be preserved, the arms apparently need supporters, and the State relies no longer on its own virtue. They now require an alien boulder stranded in the glacial period and a native prairie, which are not in the original design, as the act declares, because the original design does not exist anywhere of record, save in the old discarded seal, and they are not to be found there. What their significance is is a secret probably locked in Sharon Tyndale's grave. Beyond the prairie, too, the designer introduced a sketch of wavy water, and then in the "distant" horizon, behold the sun rising! Two dates, 1818, the year of the State's admission, and 1868, the year that Tyndale finished his tinkering with the seal, are inscribed on the boulder, and are not to be found in the original seal or in the Act of 1867.

Sharon Tyndale's triumph, however, was not in these particulars, but in the renewed motto. The altered poise of the Eagle afforded an opportunity to the designer to achieve, finally, the object of the clandestine renewal and in rearranging the scroll to transpose the motto of the State. The end bearing the words "State Sovereignty" was lowered almost to the ground, while the Federal end of the pennant was exalted and flaunted proudly over all.

Read casually, it was "National Union—State Sovereignty," and it was necessary to read the motto inversely in order to read it aright.

This seal was used until Henry D. Dement became Secretary of State, when the seal was recut. No Act of the General Assembly was then found necessary. The perverted design of 1868 was strictly adhered to, with one exception. The word sovereignty in the motto of the seal of 1868 appeared right side up to the eye, though upside down on the scroll. In the recut seal the word appears inversely, the position it naturally would assume upon the convolutions of the pennant. But the seal today in use is not that which the law or the Legislature intended or directed it should be.

This, then, is the story of how Sharon Tyndale clandestinely renewed the Great Seal of the State. Read the Act of 1867, and compare the seal renewed under the authority it vested with the original seal. The comparison will show how nearly of the "size, form and intent" of the seal then in use it was found practicable to procure. It will show how closely the renewed seal conforms to the original design, and in how many particulars it corresponds with the original seal of the State. It will neither require a very subtle process of reasoning nor a judicial construction to demonstrate that the Great Seal of the State of Illinois now and heretofore continuously for nearly half of a century in use



is not authorized by the law of the State. Of course it makes no difference. The motto might as well have been reversed by the Legislature as not. It would mean more if it had. But it wasn't.

The only consolation must come with the reflection that if by dishonesty we lost a seal blazoned according to the heraldic Hoyle we gained the prairie, the bowlder and the sun, to say nothing of the distant horizon.